



## U. S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

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### **NEW YORK WOMAN GUILTY OF FALSE STATEMENTS**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE** – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced that MATILDE DEL PILAR RODRIGUEZ, 42, of Babylon, NY, was sentenced late Tuesday, February 22, 2005, to one year's probation for making false statements when applying for a passport. DEL PILAR RODRIGUEZ pled guilty in November 2004 to one charge of intentionally making false statements in an application for a passport in U.S. District Court in Concord.

In October 2002, DEL PILAR RODRIGUEZ submitted a passport application in which she claimed that she was a United States citizen born in the Bronx, New York. In fact, DEL PILAR RODRIGUEZ is a citizen of the Dominican Republic. DEL PILAR RODRIGUEZ was indicted in February, 2004, after agents of the U.S. State Department's Diplomatic Security Service uncovered the fraud at the National Passport Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. DEL PILAR RODRIGUEZ pleaded guilty to willfully and knowingly making false statements to the State Department in a passport application in order to fraudulently obtain a United States passport.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "The United States Passport is the gold standard of travel documents. Accordingly, fraud in the acquisition or use of a United States Passport is a matter of grave concern as it has implications for our nation's security. This office will do everything possible to make sure that those who misrepresent their citizenship in or otherwise falsify passport applications are prosecuted. In prosecuting these cases, we hope to send a message of general deterrence to those who would engage in passport fraud."

This case resulted from an ongoing initiative known as "Operation Checkmate" which is designed to identify false passport applications that are submitted for adjudication to the National Passport Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The National Passport Center processes and adjudicates approximately two million applications each year, or one-quarter of all United States passport applications. Operation Checkmate is a joint initiative of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Hampshire, the U.S. Department of State, Diplomatic Security Service, the Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General and the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

DEL PILAR RODRIGUEZ was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Steven J. McAuliffe. Assistant U. S. Attorney Alfred Rubega prosecuted this case.